

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 04357 202246Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01

/061 W

-----047119 202250Z /70

O R 202212Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4371

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, NU

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA UNDER CIVIL LAW AND FREE PRESS

REF: (A) STATE 115868 (NOTAL), (B) MANAGUA 4344

SUMMARY: THE PRESS FREED FROM CENSORSHIP HAS OPENED AN ATTACK ON THE GOVERNMENT FOR MAINTAINING MARTIAL LAW SO LONG AND HAS AIRED PAST ITEMS WHICH WERE CENSORED. THE GON HAS ANNOUNCED THE FIRST SECURITY DETAINEES TO BE TURNED OVER TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF ANY IMPEDIMENT BY THE GON TO FREE PRESS AND SOME HABEUS CORPUS CASES ARE BEING PREPARED ON HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. END SUMMARY

1. OPPOSITION DAILY LA PRENSA RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY TO RESTORED FREEDOM OF PRESS BY PUBLISHING ON SEPT 19, PREVIOUSLY CENSORED STORIES AND OPENING PAPER FOR AIRING INDIVIDUAL GRIEVANCES (REF B). ON SEPT 20, LA PRENSA PUBLISHED PREVIOUSLY CENSORED PASTORAL LETTER
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OF JANUARY UNDER HEADING QUOTE THE CENSORED PASTORAL UNQUOTE WITH LEAD IN DESCRIBING ITS IMPACT IN THE U.S. TRANSLATION OF SEN. KENNEDY'S AUGUST 5 STATEMENT ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IS PUBLISHED IN ENTIRETY AS WELL AS SEPARATE STORY UNDER BANNER HEADLINE QUOTE KENNEDY: EYE ON NICARAGUA UNQUOTE. ALSO PUBLISHED ARE: POLICY STATEMENT BY PJ CHAMORRO'S OPPOSITION POLITICAL MOVEMENT, UDEL, AN ARTICLE ON HOW CENSORSHIP WAS APPLIED

ARBITRARILY AND FOR APPARENT POLITICAL REASONS, AND EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY CENSORED STORIES.ACCORDING TO FBIS, CESAR RIVAS OF MANAGUA RADIO CORPORATION IN HIS SEPT 20 COMMENTARY TOOK PRESIDENT SOMOZA AND THE GON CENSORS TO TASK FOR THE USE OF CENSORSHIP. TRANSLATION INDICATES RIVAS STRONGLY DECRIED THE USE OF CENSORSHIP TO PROHIBIT QUOTE REPORTS THAT DENOUNCE IRREGULARITIES BY A MINISTER OR OTHER OFFICIAL OF THE REGIME. THAT IS SIMPLY AN OUT-RAGE AND AN AFFRONT TO INTELLIGENCE,CULTURE, CIVIC SPIRIT AND TRUTH. UNQUOTE.

2. GON-LINING NOVEDADES CARRIED ON SEPT 20 ACAN-EFE STORY THAT FIVE RECENTLY CAPTURED FSLN TERRORISTS WERE BEING TURNED OVER TO COMMON COURTS. THREE OF THE PRISONERS WERE ARRESTED SEPT 17 FOR INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATION PLOT ON MANAGUA CHIEF OF POLICE. THE OTHER TWO WERE ARRESTED EARLIER, ONE WHO HAD LEFT THE FSLN TURNED HIMSELF IN TO POLICE AND THE OTHER WAS CAPTURED ON WAY TO MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR ACCIDENTAL SELF INFLICTED WOUND.

3. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF GON TRYING TO FIND ALTERNATE MEANS TO LIMIT FREEDOM OF PRESS OR CIVIL RIGHTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D770342-0413
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770944/aaaablc1.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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